

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 AID-20 COME-00 DRC-01

(ISO) W

----- 123318

R 070928Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5384

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, PINS, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN POST-CENSUS ENUMERATION CHECK COMPLETED

REF: LAGOS 6916

1. NIGERIAN POST-CENSUS ENUMERATION CHECK COMPLETED OVER AUGUST 2 AND 3. CHECK APPEARED GENERALLY TO GO SMOOTHLY IN EAST AND NORTH, BUT IBADAN BASED NEWSPAPERS CLAIMED THAT MANY HOUSEHOLDS IN SELECTED ENUMERATION DISTRICTS LEFT UNCOUNTED.

2. IN INTERVIEW OVER WEEKEND, CHIEF AWOLOWO REAFFIRMED POSITION (LAGOS 6415) THAT CHECK COULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING TOWARD ACHIEVING ACCURATE CENSUS FIGURES, AND CONTINUED TO CALL FOR SCRAPPING OF ENTIRE 1973 CENSUS. RECENT CRITICISM OF ADMINISTRATION OF NOVEMBER CENSUS BY CHAIRMAN SOUTH EAST STATE CENSUS COMMITTEE (MUCH OF WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED) ADDED FURTHER FUEL TO AWOLOWO DEMAND AND LED TO EDITORIAL REJECTION OF CENSUS BY LAGOS-BASED EXPRESS ON AUGUST 3.

3. STATE CENSUS OFFICIALS NOW COLLATING FIGURES FROM CHECK, AND SOME RAW DATA HAS ARRIVED IN LAGOS. NO WORD AS TO WHEN

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RESULTS WILL BE RELEASED, BUT GOWON HAD PREVIOUSLY PROMISED

FIGURES BY END OF YEAR (LAGOS 4125).

4. COMMENT: WITH AWOLOWO ADDRESS AND PRESS CLAIMS OF NEW UNDERCOUNTING IN WESTERN STATE, YORUBAS HAVE LAID GROUNDWORK FOR REJECTION OF RESULTS OF CHECK UNLESS FIGURES DRASTICALLY ALTER NORTH/SOUTH POPULATION BALANCE ESTABLISHED BY NOVEMBER CENSUS. WHILE CHECK RESULTS MAY LEAD TO SOME CHANGE OF POPULATION RATION, MOST DOUBTFUL THAT IT WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO CONCILIATE YORUBAS. THUS WHEN (AND IF) RESULTS ARE RELEASED, FMG WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THESE FIGURES REMAIN PROVISIONAL PENDING OTHER TESTS OF VALIDITY. MEANWHILE, GOVERNMENT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY UTILIZE TIME BOUGHT BY CHECK TO ATTEMPT QUIETLY TO DISCOVER RANGE OF POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE POPULATION FIGURES IN HOPES OF ACHIEVING EVENTUAL CONSENSUS-APPROVED FINAL TOTALS.
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